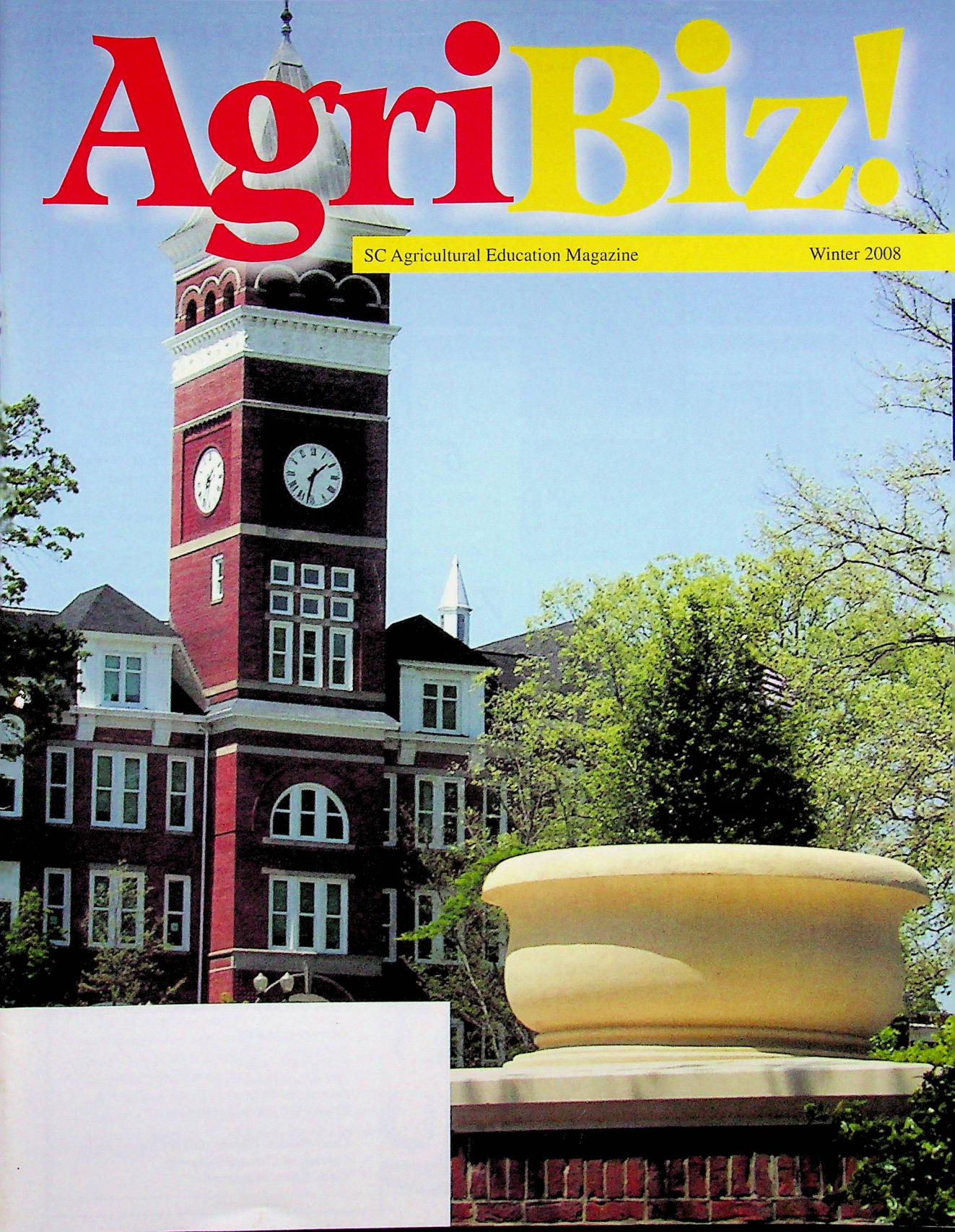


AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine

Winter 2008



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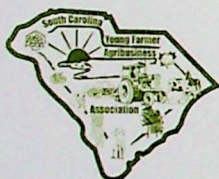
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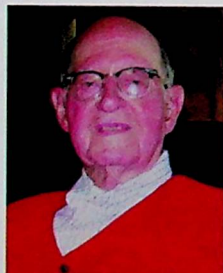
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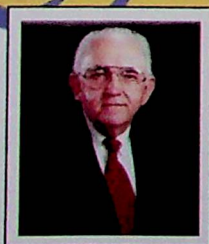


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John W. Parris
State Director,
Office of Public Affairs
Editor

AgriBiz!

October, November, December 2007

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Courtesy of Clemson University
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State FFA Officers Announce Convention at Clemson



The State FFA Officers have announced plans for the annual State FFA Convention to be held at Clemson University, June 11-13. All general sessions will be held in the Brooks Center.

The first general session will begin at 6:30 PM, Wednesday, June 11, in the Brooks Center auditorium with an official welcome to Clemson University by President **James F. Barker**.

Outstanding FFA chapters will be recognized including those in the Superior, Bronze Emblem, Silver Emblem and Gold Emblem categories. Three top Gold Emblem chapters will be awarded the Governor's Citation of Accomplishment by officials from the USDA Farm Service Agency. Additionally, each of these chapters will be awarded a \$1000 check by the SC Rural Rehabilitation Corporation.

A number of scholarships will be awarded during this session including recognizing those who are National FFA Scholars.

National FFA Vice President **Brady Revels**, where he is a junior at the University of Florida majoring in Agricultural Education, will speak at this session.

On Thursday, June 12, state finals in ten major career development events will be conducted and tours of the Clemson University campus held.

The second general session will begin at 1:30 PM with the recognition of state champions in career development events held during the school year and awarding of State Degrees to a number of outstanding FFA members.

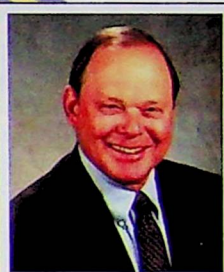
Among the highlights of the Thursday evening's 7:00 PM session will be an address by **Bill Hendrix** of Kiawah Island, chairman of the Clemson University Board of Trustees and an FFA alumnus of the McBee Chapter.

An FFA Stars over South Carolina Ceremony will recognize regional and state stars in farming, agribusiness and agricultural placement.

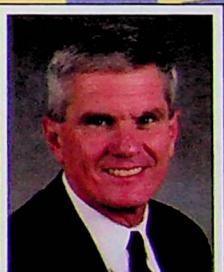
A number of Honorary State Degrees will also be presented to friends and supporters of the FFA.

The closing session on Friday morning will include the announcement of state winners in career development events held during the convention and other recognition programs. New state FFA officers will be elected at the conclusion of the session.

A luncheon for the new and retiring state FFA officers and the Clemson University Agricultural Alumni Board will feature an address by **Spencer C. McLeod**, the retiring state FFA president from McBee.



Chairman
Bill Hendrix



President
James F. Barker



National FFA VP
Brady Revels

FFA Members Hold State Legislators Appreciation Day

A record-breaking number of FFA members, advisors and other supporters from throughout the state convened in Columbia on Wednesday, February 20, for the State Legislators Appreciation Day Ceremony and an FFA Week Observance Luncheon.

The event got underway early for State FFA Officers Spencer C. McLeod, Hunter Cooper, William Nelson, Desiree Kinneer, Heather Coleman and Brittany Mixson along with former National FFA President Beau Williamson of Clovis, California, Clemson University Collegiate FFA officers and Clemson University Agricultural Education staff and faculty at a breakfast in the Capital City Club hosted by John W. Parris, state director of public affairs with the SC FFA Association.

Prior to the ceremony at the State Capitol, the state officers visited with State Representative and FFA Alumnus William D. Witherspoon, chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee; State Representative and FFA Alumnus Robert Walker, chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee; and State Senator Danny Verdin, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, and others. They were introduced to members of the House of Representatives while in session. Most of the other FFA members from throughout the state were also introduced by their respective legislators.

The ceremony, presided over by State FFA President Spencer McLeod and held on the north steps of the Capitol, got underway with Manning FFA members Allison Regin, Mercedes Johnson, Lane Ham and Dequan Williams serving as the Color Guard. Manning FFA members Leon Lee and Brooke Smith sang the National Anthem.

During the ceremony, State Representative and FFA alumnus Marion Frye of Leesville, a subcommittee chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, read and presented to the state officers a Concurrent Resolution passed by the General Assembly commending FFA members and their advisors for the outstanding Agricultural Education programs in secondary schools across the state.

State Senator Danny Verdin read and presented to the state officers the Proclamation signed by Governor Mark Sanford which designated February 16-23 as FFA Week in South Carolina and praised FFA members for their efforts to prepare for one of the more than 300 career opportunities in the science, business or technology of agriculture.

Beau Williamson addressed the attendees at the ceremony and presented the Honorary American FFA Degree to Mrs. Betty Stover of Pelion. Later in the day, he was the featured speaker at the National FFA Week Observance Luncheon held at Seawell's Restaurant. He inspired those at the Luncheon by emphasizing that "what they believe in is what they will achieve and that they should soar like the Eagle in their quest for an education".

Spencer McLeod was interviewed by one of the major TV stations in Columbia prior to the ceremony and both he and Beau Williamson were interviewed on the South Carolina Network which covers the state.



State FFA Officers Heather Coleman (left), William Nelson and Spencer McLeod with Senator Danny Verdin and other officers Desiree Kinneer, Brittany Mixson and Hunter Cooper.



State FFA Officers Heather Coleman (left), William Nelson and Spencer McLeod with State Representative Marion Frye and other officers Desiree Kinneer, Hunter Cooper and Brittany Mixson.



Clemson University Collegiate FFA officers attended the Legislators Appreciation Day breakfast, ceremony and luncheon.

and National FFA Week Luncheon



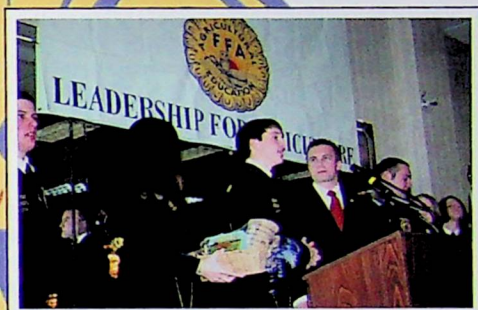
A part of the crowd of hundreds of FFA members, advisors, legislators, school administrators, parents and other supporters who attended the event



Beau Williamson addressing the South Carolina FFA Week Observance Luncheon delegates.



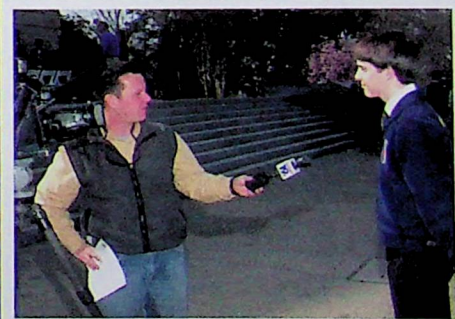
Manning FFA members Leon Lee and Brooke Smith sang the National Anthem.



State FFA Officers present Beau Williamson a gift following his address.



Manning FFA members Allison Ragin, Mercedes Johnson, Lane Ham and Daquan Williams serve as Color Guard for the State Legislators Appreciation Day ceremony.



Spencer McLeod (right) being interviewed by one of the Columbia TV Station reporters

McBee FFA Members Participate in National Conference

Seven McBee High School FFA members were selected to attend the National Young Farmer Education Association's annual conference in Tucson, Arizona, in December 2007.

Darus Williams, Caleb Winburn, Hali Lucas, Jessica Howle, Spencer McLeod, Courtney Morris and Bill Harrington competed in the association's first Agricultural Communications Award Program sponsored by the John Deere Company. They were accompanied by Mrs. **Vicky Earle**, a Biology teacher at McBee High School.

McBee Student Council President **Spencer C. McLeod** who also serves as president of the SC FFA Association, was named one of three finalist in the national competition which included adult participants from throughout the nation.

Sponsors of students trip to Arizona included the National Young Farmer Agricultural Education Institute; ArborOne Financial, Florence, SC; Chesterfield County School District and the McBee FFA Chapter.

W. Pat Earle, Agricultural Education Instructor at McBee High School, serves as FFA advisor to the nationally recognized chapter.



Pictured in front are Courtney Morris (left), Hali Polson, Jessica Howle and Spencer C. McLeod. In back are Darus Williams (left), Caleb Winburn, Mrs. Vicky Earle and Bill Harrington.

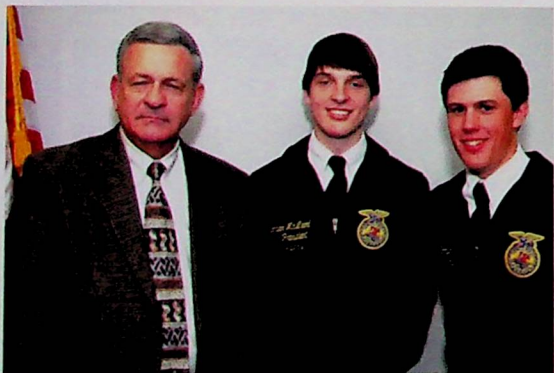
FFA Members Participate in SC Cooperative Council Meeting

A number of outstanding FFA members from throughout South Carolina participated in the annual meeting of the SC Cooperative Council held at the SC Farm Bureau Headquarters Building in Cayce on March 18.

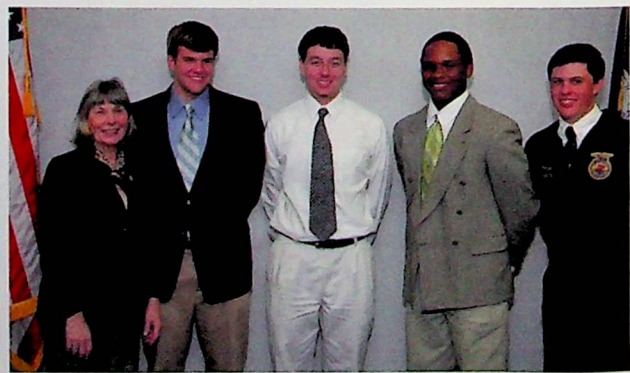
Will Amick, president of the Lexington FFA Chapter, led in the Pledge of Allegiance and Clover FFA Officer **Flint Holbrook** offered the Invocation. State FFA Secretary **Hunter Cooper** reported on the National Institute for Cooperative Education and Pelion FFA member **Jeffery Padgett** shared the joy he experienced at the state FFA convention when his name was called as the 2007 State FFA Star Farmer. State FFA President **Spencer McLeod** thanked the members of the council for their support of the FFA by sponsoring the State FFA Star Farmer Award.

Clover FFA member **Flint Holbrook**, Crestwood FFA member **Christopher Sumpter** and State FFA Secretary **Hunter Cooper** have been selected as youth advisors at the National Institute of Cooperative Education Conference scheduled to be held in Asheville, NC, this summer. The conference is co-sponsored by the South Carolina and North Carolina Cooperative Councils. **Flint Holbrook** will be a featured speaker at the conference and will discuss and demonstrate the production of biodiesel fuel.

Marie Stiles of Leesville serves as executive director of the SC Cooperative Council.



Nick McNair, vice president of AgFirst Farm Credit Bank and the featured speaker at the meeting, with State FFA President Spencer McLeod and State Secretary Hunter Cooper.



Marie Stiles with 2008 National Institute of Cooperative Education Conference Counselors Flint Holbrook of Clover, Brock Bass of Salley, Christopher Sumpter of Rembert and Hunter Cooper of Calhoun Falls.

Miss FFA Pageant Held



Katie Wilson (left), Danae Hicks, Chelsea Jones, Cameron Burns, Caitlin Raines, Ariel Fox and Bethany Vawter

Thirty young ladies from throughout South Carolina competed in the **MISS FFA BENEFIT PAGEANT** hosted by the Crescent High School FFA Chapter. The event was held to raise funds for breast cancer research.

Caitlin Raines of Easley, SC, president of the B.J. Skelton Career Center FFA Chapter, took first place honors in the pageant and received a \$500 scholarship.

Hillcrest High School FFA member **Chelsea Jones** of Simpsonville, SC, was named Runner-Up and **Ariel Fox** of Batesburg, SC, a member of the Batesburg-Leesville High School FFA Chapter, was the second Runner-Up.

Bethany Vawter, a member of the Fort Mill High School FFA Chapter, Fort Mill, SC, was selected Miss Congeniality and **Katie Wilson**, a member of the Belton-Honea Path High School FFA Chapter, Honea Path, SC, was named the Signature Princess for raising the most funds through the signature support competition.

Crescent High School FFA member **Danae Hicks**, Iva, SC, was presented a \$500 scholarship by Crescent Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter President **Jeremy Holtzclaw** for being the highest placing participant in the pageant from Crescent High School.

Cameron Burns of Pendleton, SC, the Miss FFA Pageant winner in 2007, crowned the winners. She is a freshman at Clemson University.

The pageant is held in honor of Mrs. **Jennifer Christenbury** of Iva, SC, a breast cancer survivor who teaches at Iva Elementary School and an active member of the First Baptist Church of Iva, SC. She never stopped fighting the terrible disease from the time she was first diagnosed and immediately organized and participated in several breast cancer awareness programs and events. Mrs. Christenbury participates in a Three Day Walk for Breast Cancer in Atlanta, Georgia, annually. All proceeds from the Miss FFA Pageant will be contributed to this event in her name.

Judges for the event were **Christina Lucia**, **Elaine Vierling** and **Jennifer Christenbury**. The mistresses of ceremonies were **Ashli Simpson** and **Tracy Simpson**.

Sponsors for the event included **Iva Drug Store**, **Drennon's Market**, **J.B. Thomas and Son**, **A & A Portable Buildings** and **Shaw's Used Cars**.

Special guests for the event included State FFA Vice President **William Nelson** of Laurens, SC, and **John W. Parris**, state director of public affairs for the SC FFA Association, Columbia, SC.

Tim Keown and **Roger Estridge**, Agricultural Education Instructors at Crescent High School, serve as the FFA advisors.

Former National FFA President Addresses Manning High Students



Manning FFA President Nate Lyles (left) with Javier Moreno (center) and FFA Advisor Michael Haynes

Javier Moreno, president of the National FFA Organization in 2003-04, addressed the Manning High School student body on Friday, February 29, as a guest of the Manning FFA Chapter.

Moreno was in Manning to lead the local celebration of National FFA Week which was being observed throughout the nation by the 500,000 member organization of agricultural education students. A native of Puerto Rico, Moreno graduated from Penn State with a degree in Agricultural Education. He is now a strategic planner with Toyota USA headquartered in New York City.

The FFA, originally known as the Future Farmers of America, has more than 7300 chapters located in every state, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

When the FFA was organized in 1928, the primary agricultural career was farming but that has changed dramatically with the expanding emphasis on agricultural science, business and technology. Today, there are more than 300 rewarding careers in agriculture for FFA members to consider.

Michael Haynes, Agricultural Education Instructor at Manning High School, serves as advisor to the nationally recognized FFA chapter.



Manning FFA Officers (seated from left) are: Taylor Stukes, Brittany Prince, Maya Haynes, Kiera Walker, and Brooke Smith. Standing from left are: Annette Egbonim, Nate Lyles, Kristen Keels, Leon Lee, Samantha Henry with the guest speaker, Javier Moreno, and other officers Vanessa Capers, Jessica Witherspoon and Kelsey Harrison.

SC Agricultural Educators Receive National Recognition

Three South Carolinians were recognized at the National Conference of Agricultural Educators held in Las Vegas in December 2007.

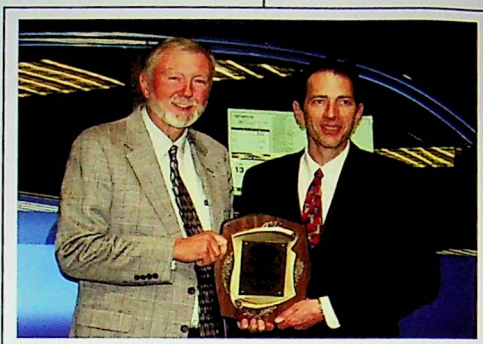
Joe Wilson of Aiken, recently retired Agricultural Education Instructor at Aiken High School, was named recipient of the Outstanding Adult Agricultural Education Program in the southern states and one of six in the nation. As a result of this superb recognition, he was presented a 2008 Toyota Tundra four door, four wheel-drive truck by Toyota USA to use for two years.

Edisto High School Agricultural Education Instructor **Barry Hawkins** was one of six teachers in the nation to receive the Teacher Mentor Award sponsored by CEV Multimedia as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Hawkins was presented a plaque, a cash award and an expense-paid trip to the national conference. He was nominated for this prestigious award by **Mindy Sandifer**, Agricultural Education Instructor at Barnwell County Career Center.

Brittany Padgett, Agricultural Education Instructor at the J. Harley Bonds Career Center, Greer, SC, was one of fifty-one teachers from across the nation to receive the coveted Teachers Turn the Key Award sponsored by Dodge Division and Daimler Chrysler Corporation in concert with the National Association of Agricultural Education and the National FFA Foundation. She received a plaque and a travel scholarship to cover expenses to attend the conference in Las Vegas.

Other South Carolinians who attended the conference were **Harry DuBose**, president of the state association and Horticulture Instructor at Carolina Forest High School, Myrtle Beach; **Allen Williams**, president-elect of the state association and Agricultural Education Instructor at Wagener-Salley High School, Wagener; **Rodger Estridge**, immediate past president of the state group and an Agricultural Education Instructor at Crescent High School, Iva; **Mark Earle**, a vice president of the state association and Horticulture Instructor at Hillcrest High School, Simpsonville; **Mindy Sandifer**, associate vice president of the state association and Agricultural Education Instructor at the Barnwell County Career Center; **Pat Earle**, national finalist in the Rural Educators Recognition Program and Agricultural Education Instructor at McBee High School; **Carrie C. Bolin**, a national conference workshop presenter and Agricultural Education Instructor at Clover High School; and **Jay Copelan**, a workshop presenter and Agricultural Education Instructor at the Hanna-Westside campus of Anderson School District Five. **Dr. Tom Dobbins**, Program Coordinator and professor of Agricultural Education at Clemson; and **Dr. Phil M. Fravel**, a member of the Agricultural Education faculty at Clemson, also attended the conference.

The National Association of Agricultural Educators is an organization of professionals who are providing agricultural education for the global community through visionary leadership, advocacy and service.



Joe Wilson (left) is congratulated by Rich Bame, a Toyota USA official.



Terry Phillips (left), Business Development Advisor with CEV Multimedia, presents award to Barry Hawkins.



NAAE President Lee James congratulates Brittany Padgett.

Agricultural Educators Attend Aquaponics Seminar

Genie Archer, Agricultural Education Instructor at the R.D. Anderson Career Center, Moore, and **Kristen Mackey**, Agricultural Education Instructor at Fort Mill High School, attended an Aquaponics Seminar in Bryson City, NC, in March.

The seminar, conducted by **Charles Johnson** with Aquaculture International headquartered in Andrews, NC.

Aquaponics is the process of combining aquaculture and hydroponics for mutual benefit. The plants benefit from the nutrient-rich water supplied by the fish. The fish benefit from the nutrient breakdown and removal activity of the plants and plant beds which provides them with clean water.

The two instructors plan to build an aquaponics system in their school's onsite greenhouses.



Mackey and Archer

SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association News

Jeff Sandifer, a prominent Barnwell County young farmer, was elected state president of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association at the organization's annual conference held in Charleston in January. Other officers named include **Michael Nance**, president-elect from the Chester Chapter; **Jeremy Holtzclaw**, piedmont region vice president from the Crescent Chapter; **Tyler Crocker**, mid-state region vice president from the Union Chapter; **Patrick Norris**, pee dee region vice president from the Antioch Chapter; **Wesley Ulmer**, lower state region vice president from the Colleton-Bamberg Chapter; **Edsel Williams**, executive treasurer from the Britton's Neck Chapter; and **Roger Smith**, past president from the Central Chapter. **Billy Keels** serves as state advisor to the executive committee.



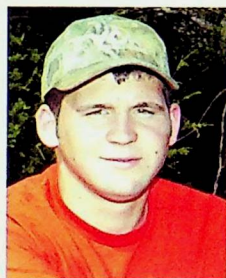
Sandifer



Nance



Holtzclaw



Crocker



Norris



Ulmer



Williams



Smith

Outstanding Young Farmer and Agribusiness State Awards

The Outstanding Young Farmer in South Carolina for 2008 is **Jason Still** a member of the Barnwell Chapter. His advisor is **Mindy Sandifer**, Agricultural Education Instructor at the Barnwell County Career Center.

Andy Callaham, a member of the Williamston Chapter in Anderson County, was the recipient of Agribusiness Award for 2008. His advisors are **Steve McGaha** and **Audie Green**, Agricultural Education Instructors at the Anderson I & II Career and Technology Center.

State Award Winners

Jason Still, Barnwell
Outstanding Young Farmer
Sponsor: Farm Credit Associations of SC

Andy Callaham, Williamston
Outstanding Agribusiness
Sponsor: Pee Dee Federal Savings Bank

Jeremy Holtzclaw, Crescent
Outstanding Chapter President
Sponsors: John Deere Dealers in SC
Dorchester Tractor Company
Sweat Implement Company
Guess Farm Equipment Company
Sparrow & Kennedy Tractor Company

Steve McGaha, Williamston
Outstanding Chapter Advisor
Sponsor: Learning Labs

Williamston Chapter
Outstanding Chapter
Sponsor: Southern States, Inc.

Dan Garrick, Edisto
Irrigated Corn
Sponsor: Pioneer and Monsanto

Jason Faulk, Britton's Neck
Non-Irrigated Corn
Sponsor: Pioneer and Monsanto

Darren Towne, Barnwell
Non-Irrigated Soybeans
Sponsor: SC Young Farmer & Agribusiness
Association

Steve Sandifer, Barnwell
Cotton
Sponsor: Delta Pineland/Monsanto

J. Perry Stone, Williamston
Horticulture
Sponsor: SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness
Association

Ricky Kneee, Pelion
Peanuts
Sponsor: Birdsong Peanuts

Clark Stillinger, Edisto
Wheat
Sponsor: Mixon Seed

Justin Leaird, Central
Beef Cattle
Sponsor: Kuhn Equipment

Harold Clinkscales, Crescent
Swine
Sponsor: SC Pork Producers Association

Maynard Dorr, Sumter
Energy Efficiency
Sponsor: Duke Energy, SCANA & Progress Energy

Frank (Mac) McLeod, Sumter
Conservation
Sponsor: USDA-Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Ricky McDaniel, Sumter
Farm Shop
Sponsor: Hammond Tools

Williams Named Officer of the National Young Farmer Association

JoAnn Williams, an active member of the Britton's Neck Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter, was elected secretary of the National Young Farmer Education Association at its annual conference in Tucson, Arizona, in December 2007.

A life member of the national organization, she and her husband, Edsel, are serving as co-chairs of the 2008 National Young Farmer Educational Institute to be held in Baltimore, Maryland later this year. Her husband, the executive treasurer of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, has previously served as president of the national organization.

Mrs. Williams was named the Outstanding Member of the national organization in 2004. She has attended more than 20 National Institutes sponsored by the organization and served on a number of committees to plan some of these events.

An active member of the South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, Mrs. Williams is widely recognized for her success in raising funds and securing sponsors for the state and national young farmer organizations.



Maye Honored by Area Agriculturalists

Tim Maye, Agricultural Education Instructor at Central High School, was honored February 28, for twenty years of distinguished service as advisor to the Central Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter.

An overflow crowd of farmers, other agribusiness representatives, FFA members and alumni, school administrators and faculty and Clemson University Agricultural Education staff attended the banquet sponsored by ArborOne Financial. They came to express their appreciation to Mr. Maye for leading the Central Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter to national prominence through its superb adult agricultural education program. The featured speaker was **W. Patrick Earle**, Agricultural Education Instructor at McBee High School.

The Central Chapter was named the Outstanding Program in the Southern States and one of the top six in the nation in 2006 by the National Association of Agricultural Educators under the leadership of Mr. Maye. The chapter usually has one or more state award winners each year in the various categories sponsored by the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association.

Roger Smith, a member of the local chapter, recently completed a term as president of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association.

Bobby Sullivan who is presently serving as president of the chapter along with former presidents Roger Smith, Jimmie Rivers and Billy Jenkins were in attendance and participated in the recognition ceremony. A number of Mr. Maye's former students were present and praised him for his guidance in their decision to choose agriculture as a career.

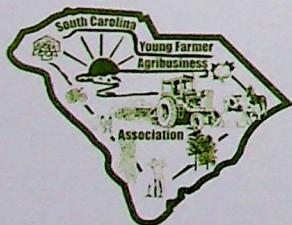


From left are former chapter presidents Jimmie Rivers and Roger Smith; Tim Maye (center), former president Billy Jenkins and Bobby Sullivan, the present president.



Bobby Sullivan (left) with Tim Maye (center) and W. Patrick Earle.

SC Young Farmer & Agribusiness Association Summer Tour July 11-12, 2008



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Clemson University and Greenville Technical College Developing Biosystems Technology Curriculum

Clemson University Biosystems Engineering Program and Agricultural Education Program officials along with Greenville Technical College's Department of Biotechnology and Engineering faculty have received a \$878,750 National Science Foundation grant to develop a Biosystems Technology curriculum for secondary schools, technical colleges and universities.

The new curriculum will be implemented through Agricultural Education departments at the secondary school level according to Dr. Tom Dobbins, Program Coordinator for Agricultural Education at Clemson and a co-leader of the project. "This curriculum will significantly enhance the engineering, science and technology aspects of Agricultural Education," Dr. Dobbins said.

Dr. Caye Drapcho, Associate Professor of Biosystems Engineering at Clemson and a co-leader of the project, said implementation of the new curriculum should substantially increase the number of qualified college graduates needed to meet the work force demands of the growing bio-manufacturing industry.

Dr. Kathy Romero, currently a professor of Biotechnology at Greenville Technical College, will also serve as a project co-leader.

An advanced Technological Education Project team will develop and implement a three-tier curriculum including a Biosystems Technology pathway for secondary school Agricultural Education programs, a Biosystems Technology certificate program at Greenville Technical College and a Biosystems Technology minor at Clemson University.



Dr. Tom Dobbins, Dr. Caye Drapcho and Dr. Kathy Romero are the Co-Project Leaders for developing the Biosystems Technology Curriculum

Thurmond FFA Team to Compete in National Finals

The Strom Thurmond Technology Center FFA Nursery-Landscape Team took first place honors in the state finals held at Spartanburg Community College on March 15.

Team members Parker Northrop, high scorer in the competition; Angel Henderson, third high scorer; Stevie Silas and Tracie Morgan were awarded expense-paid trips to the 2008 National FFA Convention by the SC FFA Foundation to compete in the National Finals. The team was coached by Cary Thompson who was practicing teaching at the Thurmond Agricultural Education Department. Dan Henderson and Hugh Bland are the Agricultural Education Instructors at the Center.

Spartanburg Community College Horticulture faculty members planned and conducted the event with assistance from Clemson University Agricultural Education administrative staff. State FFA Vice President William Nelson of Clinton, SC, also assisted with the competition.

Pictured below: *Cary Thompson with team members Parker Northrop, Angel Henderson, Stevie Silas and Tracie Morgan.*



Lexington FFA Floriculture Team in National Finals

The Lexington Technology Center FFA Floriculture Team took first place honors in the state finals held March 15 at Spartanburg Community College.

Team members Kaylon Meetze, the high scorer; Suzette Sharpe, second high scorer; Dillin Price, third high scorer; and Amanda Kyzer, fourth high scorer; along with team coach Tommy Harmon, were awarded expense-paid trips to the 2008 National FFA Convention to compete in the national Floriculture finals. The state event is sponsored by the SC FFA Foundation.

Spartanburg Community College Horticulture faculty planned and conducted the state competition with assistance from Clemson University Agricultural Education administrative staff.

Pictured below: *Tommy Harmon with team members Amanda Kyzer, Dillin Price, Kaylon Meetze and Suzette Sharpe.*



Maxcy Nolan Attributes Long Life to Right Choices

Maxcy P. Nolan's life motto has served him well of his 99 years. That motto, "Do the best you can here and when that is accomplished God will open a door to a higher sphere," is included with this senior photo in the Clemson yearbook of 1934.

In remarkable good health, Maxcy celebrated his 99th birthday on December 21.

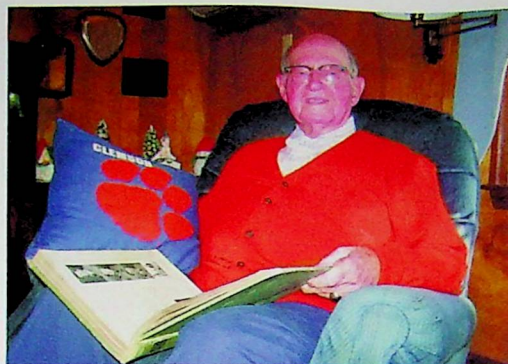
Nolan attributes his long life to three choices: eating right, living right and loving right.

Maxcy Nolan grew up on a farm in Marlboro County and attended Blenheim High School. In high school he was introduced to vocational agriculture and the Future Farmers of America which inspired him to prepare for a career in teaching vocational agriculture. In 1934 he graduated from Clemson College with a BS and MS in vocational agriculture education.

After graduation from Clemson, Nolan went on to teach vocational agriculture in Pendleton, Gaffney and Florence where he retired in 1975 after 41 years of teaching.

As a young lad growing up near the Pee Dee River, Maxcy learned to hunt and fish which he enjoyed all his life until this last decade. He nabbed a record for the biggest wild turkey (22 pounds) which he killed on his farm at the age of 85.

Today, at age 99, he enjoys watching birds at several of the bird feeders in his yard.



Maxcy P. Nolan who turned 99 on December 21, 2007, looks at his college yearbook

Excerpts taken from an article written by Brenda Harrison, Editor of THE NEWS JOURNAL, Florence, SC, and published December 26, 2007. The photo of Mr. Nolan is also courtesy of Ms. Harrison.

Skelton Career Center Presents FFA Awards

The B. J. Skelton Career Center FFA Chapter held its annual Recognition Program and Awards Banquet on March 27 in the Fellowship Hall of the Pickens First Baptist Church.

More than 200 attended the inspiring event including FFA members, agricultural educators, school administrators, parents and sponsors..

The keynote speaker was Hunter Cooper of Calhoun Falls, who is the State FFA Secretary. He challenged the students to take full advantage of the numerous opportunities available to them through the FFA as they prepare for college and a career in science, business or technology of agriculture.

Larry Raines, Louise Watson and Tim and Kay Hiott were awarded the prestigious Honorary FFA Chapter Degree for their superb support of the Agricultural Education program at B.J. Skelton Career Center.

Jessica Mitchell was presented the Star Chapter Award and Julie Nowaczek received the Star Greenhand Award.

Students recognized as the Outstanding FFA member by grade were Ashley Silvers, Samantha Know, Aaron Porter and Angelia Knox.

Finalists in the Exemplary FFA Member Award were Emilee Barnes, Angelia Knox, Josh LaBrecque, Ben Dobson, Tony LaBrecque and Caitlin Raines who was named winner of the coveted award.

The FFA advisors at B.J. Skelton Career Center are Steve McCannon, Abbie Piotrowsky and David Jensen.



State FFA Secretary Hunter Cooper (left) with Aaron Porter, Angelia Knox, Samantha Knox and Ashley Silvers.



Seated left to right: Caitlin Raines, Emilee Barnes and Angelia Knox. Standing from left: Josh LaBrecque, Ben Dobson, Tony LaBrecque and Aaron Porter.

State FFA President McLeod Attends SC Prayer Breakfast

State FFA President **Spencer C. McLeod** of McBee attended the South Carolina Prayer Breakfast on March 13 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center near Columbia, SC.

The featured speaker was the **Honorable Paul S. Tribble, Jr.**, former United States Senator from Virginia and presently serving as president of Christopher Newport University.

Governor Mark Sanford attended and addressed the large group of industry, governmental and religious leaders from across the state.

Dr. Louis Lynn, a member of the Clemson University Board of Trustees and president of Enviro AgScience, Inc., headquartered in Columbia, participated on the program.

Spencer and his FFA Advisor **Pat Earle** were guests of **John W. Parris**, state director public affairs with the SC FFA Association.

Pictured: Governor Mark Sanford with Spencer C. McLeod



New Members of Alpha Tau Alpha at Clemson

Alpha Tau Alpha is the national professional organization for Agricultural Education.

The Clemson University Kappa Chapter was founded in 1932 and has previously inducted 515 students of Agricultural Education over the past 76 years.

Former members of the Clemson Chapter have served in numerous capacities including teacher educators, state supervisors, heads of state agencies and teachers of Agriculture.

Dr. P. M. Fravel, a member of the Agricultural Education faculty at Clemson, serves as chapter advisor.



From left in front are Robin Beasley, Katie Crouch, Chrissie Segars, Amy Williams and Clair Devenport. From left in back are Clay Cotney, Jason Gore, Robert Cobb, Marty Dorrah, Travis Ard, Jonathan Manley, Ryan Settle and Doug McCormick.

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Clover FFA Member Addresses Agricultural Conference

Clover FFA member **Flint Holbrook** addressed the annual conference of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association held in Charleston in January. He shared his knowledge and experience in the production of biodiesel fuel.

Holbrook also addressed and demonstrated the production of biodiesel fuel at an Alternative Energy Symposium held in Eastman, Georgia, in January, sponsored by the USDA NRCS and the University of Georgia.

Additionally, he displayed and explained the function of his equipment for producing biodiesel at the Clemson University Ag Tailgate last November as part of the Collegiate FFA exhibit which took first place honors in the display competition.

An outstanding FFA member, Holbrook has been featured on the national RFD-TV network which reaches more than 35 million homes. He has also been featured in the Rock Hill HERALD newspaper.

Carrie C. Bolin, Agricultural Education Instructor at Clover High School, is Holbrook's FFA advisor.



K. Flint Holbrook

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New Wildlife Management Program

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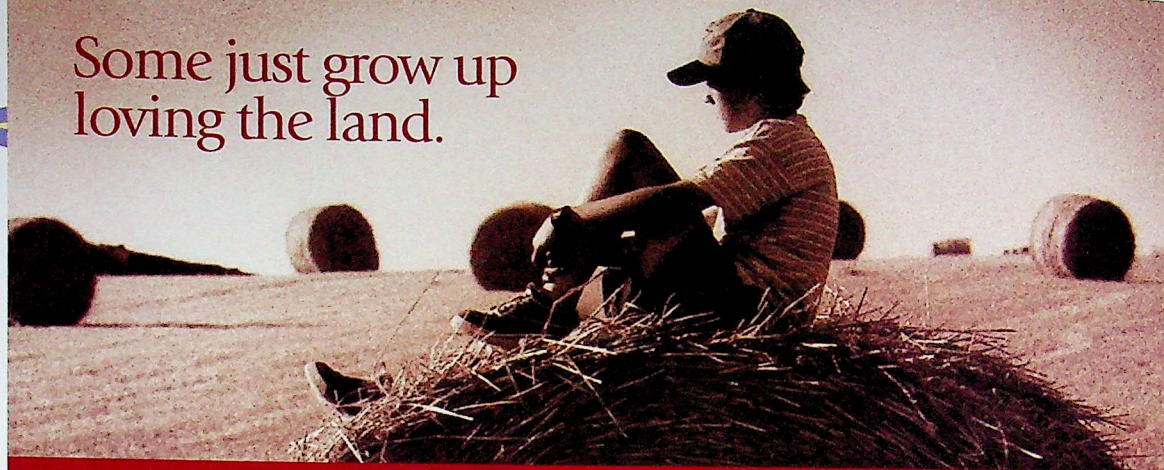
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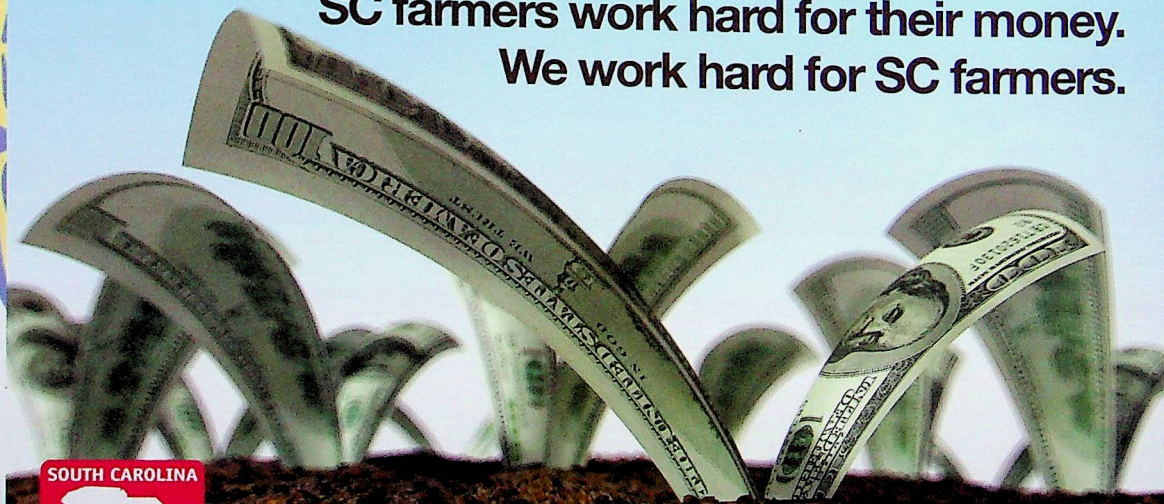
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